

SAN ANTONIO Class LPD 17

DESCRIPTION

The SAN ANTONIO Class LPD 17 is the newest amphibious ship class designed to provide the large lift capacity necessary for the rapid build-up of combat power ashore. In addition, it significantly enhances the operational flexibility of a three ship Amphibious Ready Group. It will carry about 700 Marines, have a vehicle stowage capacity of 25,000 square feet, a cargo stowage capacity of 27,000 cubic feet, a well deck sized for two LCACs, and a flight deck capable of simultaneous operation of two CH-53E Super Stallions, two MV-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft, or four CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters. This ship class is optimized for size, flexibility, and economy.

PROCUREMENT PROFILE:

<i>FY</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>00</i>	<i>01</i>	<i>02</i>	<i>03</i>	<i>04</i>	<i>05</i>	<i>06</i>	<i>07</i>	<i>08</i>	<i>09</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Funded</i>	1	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	2						12
<i>Deliver</i>								2	1	2	2	2	2	1	12

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

Current emphasis on regional contingencies and rapid deployment by naval expeditionary forces increases the importance of amphibious lift assets. The LPD 17 class is required to overcome shortfalls of amphibious lift assets caused by the decommissioning of aging LPDs, LSTs, LKAs, and LSDs. When construction is completed, the 12 SAN ANTONIO Class LPDs will provide the lift necessary to meet crisis response and forward presence requirements.

PROGRAM STATUS

The 1990 DoN Integrated Amphibious Operations and Marine Corps Air Support Requirements Study reaffirmed the SAN ANTONIO Class requirement. The MNS was validated in September 1990 and the DAB approved Milestone 0 in November 1990. Preliminary design work was completed in November 1993 and was followed by commencement of contract design. The contract for the lead ship was awarded in December 1996. Initial delivery is scheduled for FY03.

DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

Avondale Industries

Bath Iron Works